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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006)

Note verbale dated 11 April 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) and has to honour to submit herewith the report on the implementation of resolution 2397 (2017) (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 11 April 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

Report of Uruguay on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2397 (2017)

As a non-nuclear State, Uruguay is committed to strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Its adherence to the multilateral normative framework is best complemented by its implementation of a foreign policy that emphasizes and promotes the need for continued progress in universal and transparent negotiations aimed at achieving general and complete disarmament under a strict international regime.

This is reflected in the accession to and ratification of a number of international instruments, including the following: the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, and the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare.

The proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security. Uruguay therefore emphasizes the need for States to take all appropriate national measures, in accordance with their national authorities and legislation, and consistent with international law, to strengthen export controls, prevent proliferation financing and shipments, secure dual-use materials and control access to intangible transfers of technology and to information that could be used for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

In this context, it should be noted that Act No. 19.205 concerning chemical weapons and toxic chemicals is fully in effect in the Eastern Republic of Uruguay. The statute criminalizes the production, acquisition, development, transfer, import, export, trading in any capacity or use of any kind of chemical weapons, toxic chemicals or their precursors, contained in Schedules 1, 2 and 3 of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

As at the date of submission of the present report, there has been no operation or activity that has been identified as possibly requiring the implementation of the measures contemplated in resolution 2397 (2017), including the imposition of an arms embargo, an asset freeze or a travel ban on individuals participating in the nuclear programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the prohibition of a number of imports and exports, with a view to preventing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from conducting nuclear tests or launching ballistic missiles. Similarly, no evidence has been detected or found to intimate that any listed individuals have entered, left or travelled through our country, or that any individuals have helped them to evade sanctions or to violate the provisions of resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009) and 2397 (2017).

The executive branch has presented to parliament draft counter-terrorism legislation developed by a multidisciplinary committee comprising representatives of the three branches of government, the Office of the Attorney General and the Central Bank. The statute, which aims to align the country's laws with international standards, encompasses the phenomenon of terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the financing thereof, and could become a cutting-edge piece of legislation and a model for the region, in that it was drafted in keeping with United Nations resolutions and the recommendations of organizations specializing in the topic, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, with its technical guide, and the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America. In that connection, it is worth noting article 12 and following of the draft legislation, which aims to standardize the procedures for verifying the individuals and entities included in the lists annexed to Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011), 1989 (2011), 1718 (2006), 1737 (2006) and any subsequent, similar or complementary resolutions adopted on the topic. The legislation is also aimed at ensuring the efficient management of the cycle for countering the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by systematizing the verification of the lists and the application of sanctions by both financial and non-financial reporting entities.

There is also a plan to apply financial sanctions against the individuals referred to in the aforementioned resolutions by assigning powers to the relevant authorities and taking concrete steps.

The foregoing shows that Uruguay is making every effort to implement the measures necessary to comply effectively with resolution 2397 (2017) and its predecessor resolutions. To that end, there is fluid and constant communication with all State agencies that are in any way responsible for implementing the resolution, and nothing has been found so far to be reported to the Committee.